



Administrator of Christmas Island
Administrator of Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Community Newsletter



Issue 56 – 18 December 2024

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Welcome Message

Welcome to the final edition of my newsletter for 2024.

With the holidays just around the corner, many of us are focused on getting through to a well-deserved break. I would like to thank all of you who will be working or on stand-by through the festive season to keep our community safe and healthy – particularly the health service staff and our emergency services officers and volunteers.

We have seen the impact of extreme weather events on our communities this year, both on Cocos and Christmas Islands. It is important to always be alert and aware, with more weather events possible. Throughout the year, I have been working closely with the Emergency Management Committees to make sure we have the best practice plans and frameworks in place to keep our communities safe in the event of emergencies across our region. Make sure you are prepared for weather events by trimming branches and trees, clearing gutters and securing loose items at your property. Have an emergency kit and some long-life food and water to hand. Ensure you have an emergency plan and your family is all aware of it. Stay informed and monitor conditions if there is an event through IOT News on Facebook, the 6RCI and 6CKI local radio stations, Emergency WA and the Bureau of Meteorology.

I know that Minister McBain and the Australian Government are committed to helping manage the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events in our region,

particularly on Cocos, and I look forward to working with the government and the community over the coming months to tackle both our immediate, and long-term needs, supporting our communities and stakeholders to be best prepared for the future extreme weather events.

As Administrator, I have prioritised advocating for improved services, programs and targeted infrastructure for our region, not only from government but other institutions that impact the lives and livelihoods of our communities. Recently I was pleased to facilitate a visit from the Commonwealth Bank to Cocos, supporting improved banking for residents who are unable to access routine banking supports and tools, due to their remote location. I look forward to continuing to work with the Commonwealth Bank on further visits, and thank everyone involved in getting this important banking support to Cocos.

Some of my other highlights from the past year include the reinvigoration of the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service (IOTHS) Community Advisory Committee, which has been a priority of mine since becoming Administrator 18 months ago. Thanks to the Committee, the community has a voice in the design, delivery and evaluation of our local health systems and services, which means more targeted, specialised health programs designed specifically for our community.

Of course, none of these programs and services would be possible without our passionate and committed health service staff, and I would like to give them a special shout-out for their hard work in ensuring the recent re-accreditation of the health service against the National and Quality Health Service Standards. Well done to you all!

Personally, this year has seen me tick off some significant milestones, including the one-year anniversary of my appointment to the role of Administrator. I have been very fortunate in my career to be able to work in and serve the community that I love, and I am so grateful to have this opportunity now to represent the Indian Ocean Territories at the highest levels.

A few months ago, I travelled to Canberra and met with the Minister, departmental staff and stakeholders, not only gaining an in-depth understanding of the government's priorities for our region, but to strengthen the relationships that are so vital in supporting our communities through the coming years.

The new year is always a time of change and transition, and it seems fitting to take this opportunity to farewell Dan Williams, who has been working with us on Cocos as an Australian Federal Police officer for the past two years – and for the past six months as Officer in Charge. Dan has played a critical role during the recent extreme weather events on island, and has not only proven a dedicated and knowledgeable officer, but has been a steady hand during stressful situations. Thank you Dan, and on behalf of the community we wish you all the best for the future.

So, as we all turn our sights to 2025, I would like to wish all who celebrate a happy holiday season – and to the entire community, I would like to express my gratitude for your support over the past 12 months. I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the new year. I will be on leave from 20 December to 28 January, with Kim Forbes – a well-known face from her time leading the IOT Branch, as Deputy Administrator in my stead.

Let us know if you want us to include your upcoming community event or activity in the newsletter. Stories (including photos) about recent IOT community events are very welcome and can be emailed to IOTAdministrator@infrastructure.gov.au

Farzian Zainal

Administrator of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Latest News

Supporting property owners and renters through the Short-Term Rental Accommodation Incentive Scheme

With a currently tight rental market in the IOT, two incentive schemes to convert short-term rental accommodation and vacant properties into long-term rentals could make a real difference to tenants across our communities.

The Short-Term Rental Accommodation (STRA) Incentive Scheme and Vacant Property Rental (VPR) Incentive Scheme have been extended by the Western Australian Government until June 2025 – and now include the IOT for the first time.

Both the STRA Scheme and VPR Scheme offer cash incentives to owners to transition their properties over to the long-term rental market.

The STRA Incentive scheme aims to encourage owners of holiday homes, units or apartments currently offered for short-term or short-stay rental, to transition to a long-stay lease – with successful STRA owners receiving a \$10,000 grant. Those who own vacant property in the IOT who qualify for the VPR Scheme will receive \$5,000.

If this sounds like something for which you would like to apply, there are a couple of things you need to know.

You will not be eligible for the VPR Scheme if not renting out the entire property. Further, the property must have been vacant from 8 November 2023 to 3 November 2024 inclusive. This means, it was not used as the owner's principal place of residence or as short-term rental accommodation for financial gain, nor was it subject to a residential tenancy anytime during the vacancy period.

Both VPR Scheme and STRA Scheme applicants must be prepared to provide a minimum 12-month lease arrangement to new, long-term tenants in exchange for the grants. These new tenants cannot be family members – including step-family.

For the STRA, there are also set limits on how much weekly rent you can charge, which is based on the property's location.

If you wish to help other IOT residents find a home, you have until 30 June 2025 to apply for these schemes, unless grant funds are exhausted beforehand.

Full eligibility criteria, terms and conditions are available online – head to the [Short-Term Rental Accommodation Incentive Scheme](#) or [Vacant Property Rental Incentive Scheme](#) pages on the DEMIRS website.

If you have questions about either of the incentive schemes, you can contact Consumer Protection on 1300 30 40 54 or email cpgrants@demirs.wa.gov.au ([link sends email](#))

The IOT's participation in these schemes is funded by the Australian Government. We thank the WA Government for its support for IOT eligibility in these initiatives.

Celebrating milestones with the Year 10 Cocos students

During my most recent trip to Cocos, I hosted an afternoon tea at Pondok Indah to celebrate the achievements of the Year 10 students from Cocos (Keeling) Islands District High School. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend time with the students, their parents, and teachers as they reflected back on their time at CKIDHS.

It was an enjoyable occasion that allowed me to chat with the students and find out about their aspirations for the future, as they embark on the next stage of their education journey.

The Administrator's Award for 2024 was presented to Muhammad Ishraf Salahadin Lazin. The award recognises a student that works hard and demonstrates respect for others, as well as being a good role model for younger students.

I would like to congratulate all of the students on their achievements and the contributions they've made and continue to make to the Cocos community.



Thanking CI's Emergency Services Volunteers

In the event of an emergency on Christmas Island, members from St John's Ambulance, the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services, and Volunteer Marine Rescue are often called upon to assist. The members invest a significant amount of time in training and emergency exercises; and we call upon them to keep our community safe, often away from their other commitments.

Earlier this month I hosted an event to show my appreciation for the selfless and generous contributions the emergency services volunteers make to the Christmas Island community.

Members from the Australian Federal Police also attended and expressed their

gratitude to the volunteers for their tireless efforts.

Volunteers play such an important role in the fabric of every regional and remote community, and we are extremely fortunate to have such a strong volunteering spirit in the Indian Ocean Territories. I would like to extend my thanks to the emergency services volunteers on the Cocos Islands as well, and hope to host a similar event on CKI next year.

For any further information about volunteering with any of our emergency services organisations, please contact lotadministrator@infrastructure.gov.au so we can put you in touch.



Heywire Success for Christmas Island local

The ABC Heywire competition is an annual storytelling initiative that invites young people from regional, rural, and remote areas of Australia to share their stories. This year, Christmas Island's own Amaniya Roslan was one of the 38 winners invited to attend the Heywire youth summit in Canberra in early 2025 to collaborate on ideas and discuss issues affecting youth in regional areas of Australia.

Amaniya's story focuses on her passion for baking and the challenges involved in starting a small business on island. Seeing young people like Amaniya demonstrating initiative and passion as they follow their dreams is inspiring and shows what a strong future there is in the Indian Ocean Territories.

Congratulations to Amaniya on her achievements!

Calling all Indian Ocean Territories artists

Calling an Indian Ocean Territories artists

Recently, the Shire of Cocos applied for, and was awarded, a \$24,824 grant from the Regional Arts Fund through Regional Arts Western Australia for the Cocos Batik Revival Project.

The project aims to reclaim and revitalize Batik, an important cultural practice with significance to the Cocos community, through a series of workshops run by regional artist Jacky Cheng.

Thank you to the Shire for applying for this important grant, which will help empower local Cocos artists through this exquisite art form.

The Regional Arts Fund is an ongoing program that provides some \$6 million a year to support artists and communities in regional and remote areas. It is part of the Australian Government's Arts and Cultural Development Program that supports participation in, and access to, arts and culture through developing and supporting cultural expression.

The Regional Arts Fund is managed by Regional Arts Australia on behalf of the Australian Government, recognising that regional and remote arts practice is critical to a vibrant national arts sector that reflects Australia's depth and diversity.

As one of Australia's most diverse regions, the Indian Ocean Territories are uniquely placed to demonstrate our rich and vibrant culture through art, which is why I encourage local groups to apply directly through Regional Arts Australia.

For more information, including eligibility, guidelines or just to learn more, go to <https://regionalarts.com.au/regional-arts-fund/>



Clean up on Cocos



Recently, 11 crew members from Sea Shepherd Australia travelled to Cocos to conduct an intensive clean-up campaign – The Cocos Trash Bash 24.

During the 13 days they were on Cocos, the crew cleaned beaches on five islands, removing more than nine tonnes of trash.

Plastic cups, water bottles, bottle tops, hard plastic pieces, straws, polystyrene, plastic cutlery and plastic film were among the most common items polluting the beaches. Out of the 9 tonnes removed, 1132 bags were filled with more than six tonnes of plastic items.

For the first time the team tackled Horsburgh Island, with the help of local Pete McCartney to transport them, spending the day removing some 700kg of rubbish from the beach near the Pondok and around the corner past the cannons, covering roughly 320 meters of beach.

Thanks to Parks Australia, the AFP and of course the Shire for their help removing the bags from the islands, and to Parks Australia for joining Sea Shepherd Australia on the beach, as well as to the following people and groups on Cocos who made this campaign possible:

- **The community** for joining in the clean-up efforts!
- **Penne and Dan from Cocos Day** for donating the use of the canoes and blue boat to enable us to get to South Island.
- **Annelies and Graham from Castaway** for their financial support and for providing vehicles and accommodation over the two weeks.
- **The Cocos Club** for hosting the Sea Shepherd film screening.
- **Emma at the Barge** for the delicious morning tea.
- **Thomas** for keeping the crew hydrated and cool with ice and coconuts.
- **Paula and Greg from Oceania House** for helping with the clean-up and stepping in whenever needed.

A special thank you to Sea Shepherd Australia for bringing their Marine Debris Campaign to Cocos, and for their hard work and dedication for helping protect paradise!

Sea Shepherd's Marine Debris Campaign carry out many remote clean-ups on indigenous and cultural lands in Northern Australia as well as community clean-ups around Australia. This is just one of the areas in which Sea Shepherd is working to protect the marine environment.

If you would like to learn more, please visit www.seashepherd.org.au

For any further information about the Cocos Trash Bash, please contact Campaign Leader Liza Dicks at liza@seashepherd.org.au



Calling the next Lauren Jackson and Patty Mills to the court!

Sports visits for 2025 are starting off with a slam dunk thanks to Basketball WA's planned activities in the second half of February next year – with superstar coach Keely O'Brien bringing her skills and experience to Cocos from Tuesday 18 to Friday 21 February, and Christmas Island from Friday 21 to Friday 28 February next year.

Keely will not only be on island teaching and supporting the development of new basketball skills, but to connect and engage with the community, demonstrate the importance of resilience and teamwork, and help build self confidence on and off the court.

Whether you dream of representing your community or country in basketball, or just want to spend a couple of hours having fun with friends and family, make sure to pop the visit in your calendars for February next year! More details of specific events to follow.

It's sure to be a 3 pointer at least!





Junior Nurses Take Over Home Island Clinic: Chaos Ensues, Teddy Survives



Last month the halls of Home Island Clinic transformed into a bustling hive of tiny, high-energy healthcare workers. The Junior Nurse Program welcomed a squad of five and six-year olds ready to diagnose, bandage, and giggle their way through a morning of medical mayhem.

Perhaps the highlight was the x-ray station, where an x-ray of a coconut sparked some debates. Maths skills using the scales were also demonstrated - this is a pretty smart class.

The ambulance tour turned into a bit of a mobile disco as the junior nurses enjoyed the flashy inside lights.

After the skills had been learned and we were all warmed up, it was time to pin on the junior nurses' ID badges, put them on the payroll, and produce the most adorable staff roster in clinic history.

The program concluded with a Health and Hygiene Activity, where glitter-covered hands highlighted the importance of handwashing.

As the medical madness came to an end, the tiny nurses bid farewell, clutching their ID badges and armed with the knowledge and all the skills to be a junior nurse.



Job Opportunities



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts



Director of Nursing and Community Health

Unique Leadership Opportunity on Christmas Island

Full Time Ongoing Position

Total remuneration package over \$220,000, including:

- Annual base salary of \$141,715
- 16% employer superannuation contribution
- District Allowance payable in addition to base salary
- Generous leave provisions
- Annual return airfares assistance to Perth for you and eligible dependants
- Comprehensive relocation assistance if relocating to the Indian Ocean Territories

Are you a skilled nursing leader ready for your next adventure? The Indian Ocean Territories Administration (IOTA) is seeking an experienced and dedicated Director of Nursing and Community Health (DONCH) to join our team within the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service (IOTHS) on picturesque Christmas Island.

About the Role

As the DONCH, you will lead and manage the nursing and community health portfolios, ensuring the delivery of exceptional healthcare services to the diverse communities of the Indian Ocean Territories.

This role offers a unique opportunity to live and work in a remote yet close-knit and vibrant community, making a significant impact on the health and well-being of the local population.

About You

We are looking for someone with:

- Advanced clinical skills with experience applying Remote Area Nurse competencies in small hospitals.
- A proven track record in developing and evaluating community health plans and programs.
- Experience in chronic disease management and delivering primary health care programs.
- Expertise in financial and human resource management, staff development, and resource allocation.
- Knowledge of accreditation processes, strategic planning, and safety compliance.

Eligibility

- Australian citizenship and eligibility for a security clearance at Baseline Vetting Level.
- AHPRA registration as a Registered Nurse.
- Valid Class C Driver's License (transferable to IOT).
- Eligibility for a Western Australian Working with Children Check.

How to Apply

Contact the IOTA Human Resources Team at IOTHRTeam@infrastructure.gov.au, quoting position number 114978, to request an application pack for more details about the role and the application process.

Applications Close:

4:00 PM Christmas Island Local Time (CXT, UTC+7) on Monday, 6 January 2025.



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts



Registered Nurse Level 2

Christmas Island - Fixed Term Full Time - 3 February 2025 to 3 February 2026

Package valued in excess of \$148,000 including:

- Base salary of \$88,413 - \$93,935 per annum plus shift penalties
- Employer contribution to superannuation at 16% of base salary
- District Allowance payable in addition to base salary
- Generous leave entitlements
- Relocation assistance and heavily subsidised housing and motor vehicle (including fuel) may be provided if relocating to the Indian Ocean Territories
- Annual return airfares assistance to Perth (upon completion of 12 months)

- Annual return airfare assistance to Perth (upon completion of 12 months continuous service)

Are you looking for an exciting opportunity, adventure and a better quality of life whilst expanding your experience? The Indian Ocean Territories Administration (IOTA) is currently seeking motivated, professional and suitably qualified persons to join our team as a Registered Nurse Level 2 within the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service (IOTHS) based on Christmas Island.

About the Role The key responsibilities of the Registered Nurse position are to deliver direct, high quality and comprehensive nursing care and individual case management and to act as a professional role model, resource and support for colleagues.

About You

We are looking for someone that:

- Is highly motivated, adaptable and willing to be actively involved in health promotion activities.
- Is experienced in independently manage one or more health portfolios.
- Is willing to participate in a 24/7 roster, including night shift, weekends and public holidays.

Nurses with a demonstrated ability to work effectively with people in small/remote and/or regional contexts in a multicultural environment will be well regarded.

Eligibility

- AHPRA registration as a Registered Nurse.
- Valid Class C Driver's License (transferable to the IOTs).
- Eligibility for a Western Australian Working with Children Check.

How to Apply

Contact the IOTA Human Resources Team at IOTHRTeam@infrastructure.gov.au, quoting position number 115496, to request an application pack for more details about the role and the application process.

Applications Close:

4:00 PM Christmas Island Local Time (CXT, UTC+7) on Monday, 6 January 2025.



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts



Housing Officer - Christmas Island

Full Time Ongoing Vacancy - Territory Officer Level 5

The Housing Officer plays a vital role in managing our housing portfolio within the Operations business unit. In this dynamic role, you will oversee, coordinate, and report on all aspects of the property portfolio on Christmas Island. This is your chance to contribute to the delivery of essential services while being part of a supportive and community-focused team.

What We Offer:

- Base annual salary of between \$75,984-\$89,783 per annum.
- Generous 16% employer superannuation contributions.
- Additional district allowance to support your remote lifestyle.
- Comprehensive leave entitlements for a healthy work-life balance.
- Annual airfare assistance for return travel to Perth.

About the Role:

As the Housing Officer, you will:

- Manage tenancies and oversee property maintenance.
- Ensure properties are safe, well-maintained, and meet required standards.
- Collaborate with tenants, contractors, and stakeholders to achieve positive outcomes.

Who We're Looking For:

We value diverse experiences and encourage applicants from various backgrounds

We value diverse experiences and encourage applicants from various backgrounds. You could be the right fit for this role if you:

- Have knowledge or experience in housing or property management.
- Communicate effectively and build strong relationships.
- Thrive in an environment where confidentiality and professionalism are key.
- Possess experience working within a procurement framework.

Eligibility:

- Australian citizenship (required for Baseline Vetting security clearance).
- A valid driver's licence (transferable to the Indian Ocean Territories).
- Willingness to undergo a health assessment and criminal history check.

How to Apply:

Contact the IOT Human Resources Team at IOTHRTeam@infrastructure.gov.au and quote position number 109143 to request an applicant information pack for further details about the role and how to apply.

Applications close at 4:00 PM (Christmas Island Time, UTC+7) on Monday, 20 January 2025.



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts



Human Resources Officer

Territory Officer Level 4 - Christmas Island
Full Time Ongoing vacancy

The Indian Ocean Territories Administration (IOTA) is seeking a motivated, professional and suitably qualified individual to join our team as a Human Resources Officer based on Christmas Island.

This role provides essential support to the Human Resources Manager across all HR administration and operational functions. Key responsibilities include delivering high-quality customer service and providing accurate HR advice while ensuring confidentiality, discretion, and professionalism at all times. The role also involves contributing to a positive and collaborative HR team environment, working to support and achieve the IOTA's goals. This position is ideal for someone who is proactive, detail-oriented, and committed to fostering a positive workplace culture.

The ideal candidate for the HR Officer role will bring demonstrated experience in Human Resource or similar administrative role, with a strong ability to interpret and provide accurate advice on enterprise agreements, legislation, and workplace policies and procedures. They will possess a high level of discretion and professionalism in managing sensitive and confidential information, as well as effective time management skills, with the ability to prioritise tasks, meet deadlines, and maintain attention to detail across all HR activities. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are essential, with the ability to collaborate and communicate effectively with a diverse range of stakeholders.

Knowledge of Work, Health and Safety principles, proficiency in the local community languages of Chinese and/or Malay, and the ability to live and work in a small, remote and/or multi-cultural community; and within a small multi-skilled workforce will be well regarded.

To be considered, applicants must be an Australian Citizen and eligible to obtain a security clearance at Baseline Vetting Level. The successful applicant will also be subject to a pre-employment screening (Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check) and medical assessment.

For an application pack outlining how you can apply for this opportunity, please contact the IOTA Human Resources Team at meika.wright@infrastructure.gov.au and quote position number **109141**.

Applications close 3pm (Christmas Island local time) (CXT) (UTC+7), 23 December 2024.



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



Casual Biosecurity Officers

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is seeking people who are interested in casual employment as a Biosecurity Officer on Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

As a Biosecurity Officer, you will be responsible for delivering services to verify compliance with Australia's biosecurity and export market requirements. You will work as part of a team to anticipate risk and act quickly and effectively to protect our economy, environment and communities. The department has a national footprint delivering services in all capital cities and regional ports around the country and in Australia's offshore territories. In our regional ports, our activities include inspection of arriving and departing vessels, aircraft, goods, mail, crew and passengers.

The role of a Biosecurity Officer can at times be strenuous and physically demanding and involves a combination of office and field-based work. Applicants should note that the nature of the work is of an irregular and intermittent nature.

If you are flexible and would like an interesting and varied job helping protect Australia's valuable biosecurity status, please express your interest in a casual Biosecurity Officer role via our Temporary Employment Register which is available at <https://awejobs.nga.net.au>.



Community Announcements

Christmas Island Outdoor Cinema



Late changes will be posted on the Roundabout Blackboard and [Facebook](#).

Adults \$ 5.00

School aged children 3 to 17 years old \$2.00

Want to sponsor an upcoming movie?

You will receive 2 free passes, special seating, food platter with your favourite nibbles, drinks of your choice and a public announcement on the evening of the movie. We will advertise your company or individual message in the Islander, Facebook Page, on the world's most remote roundabout and one of the last remaining outdoor Cinema screens. (Your choice of movie and date will be dependent upon availability.)

To become part of this exciting club or enquire about sponsorship, please Email: cioutdoorcinema@gmail.com or accounts@cinema.org.cx

Rating information provided by <http://www.classification.gov.au>.

The Christmas Island Cinema Club is proudly supported by: CiFi, Freightshop, Shire of Christmas Island, Metro Solar and many local sponsors and volunteers.

* THE CHRISTMAS ISLAND CINEMA IS A SMOKE FREE AREA *



Wicked (PG)

SATURDAY - 27th December, 7.30pm

Elphaba, a misunderstood young woman because of her green skin, and Glinda, a popular girl, become friends at Shiz University in the Land of Oz. After an encounter with the Wonderful Wizard of Oz, their friendship reaches a crossroads.

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